



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

Winchester Hall / 12 East Church Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701
CONTACT: Robin K. Santangelo
Public Information Officer
301-600-2590
rsantangelo@FrederickCountyMD.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 7, 2013

Ordinance failed to reduce false alarms...

COUNTY MOVES TO REPEAL ALARM SYSTEM REGISTRATION ORDINANCE

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick Board of County Commissioners today voted unanimously to take to public hearing an ordinance which would repeal the Alarm System Registration Ordinance.

The Alarm System Registration Ordinance went into effect in August 2000 as a means of reducing or eliminating false alarms and to encourage alarm users and alarm companies to maintain operational reliability and proper use of the alarm systems. Alarm companies and residential and non-residential alarm users have been required to register and pay fees to support the program.

Frederick County Sheriff Chuck Jenkins appeared before the board to urge the repeal of the ordinance. He said, “This ordinance never achieved its goals to reduce or eliminate false alarms. In 2006, law enforcement personnel responded to 3,120 alarms. In 2010 we responded to 3,199 and in 2011 the response was to 2,886. In 2012, we responded to 2,935 alarms. The registration system never achieved what it was set out to do and we continue to respond to these alarms, the majority of which are false alarms. This program never did more than generate revenue from alarm users and it is an unproductive use of our public safety personnel.”

Board President Blaine Young wholeheartedly agreed with Sheriff Jenkins. He commented, “This ordinance comes at a significant cost to alarm companies, businesses, homeowners and to the county without achieving the intended benefit and primary objective. We believe it should be repealed, and today’s action is the first step in taking it to a public hearing to achieve that goal. This board continues to work toward ‘[business friendly](#)’ initiatives for Frederick County citizens such as the repeal of this onerous ordinance.”

Repeal of the ordinance will result in a budgetary savings of \$67,000.

For further information, contact Director Gary Hessong, Permits and Inspections Department, at 301-600-1172 or via e-mail at ghessong@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

###